(d) the steps taken to clear the backlog; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) 76,530 cases were filed in CAT during last three years (2000-2002 calender years).

(b) 92,865 cases were settled during those years (2000-2002 calender years).

(c) 30,771 cases are pending in CAT as on 31.01.2003.

(d) and (e) The functioning of the CAT is independent of Government. However, efforts are made by the Government td fill up the vacant posts of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Members as expeditiously as possible. On account of this and steps taken by the Central Administrative Tribunal itself for expeditious disposal of cases, the pendency has been reduced from 47889 as on 31.12.1999 to 30771 cases as on 31.01.2003.

Kendriya Bhandars in Delhi

†855. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kendriya Bhandars situated at Gole Market area are not being supplied rice regularly and resultantly consumers have to face the difficulties;

(b) whether Government are aware that the employees of the Kendriya Bhandars at Gole Market and Kali Bari prepare underweighing packets of the every commodity and even the rice for the ratio is also sold in the open market in packets; and

(c) what action Government propose to take against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) No such complaint regarding non-availability of rice in Kendriya Bhandar stores in Gole Market Area has come to the notice of Kendriya Bhandar.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Either packing of Grocery commodities including rice is centrally done in Kendriya Bhandar's godowns, or procurement is done in suppliers' packing. The question of preparation of underweight packets in Kendriya Bhandar's store in Gole Market Area, therefore, does not arise. Rice for the ration is sold by Kendriya Bhandar's employees under the supervision of Food and Civil Supplies authorities and no such complaint relating to selling of rice of ration in the open market has come to the notice of Kendriya Bhandar.

(c) Does not arise.

Free power connection under the Kutir Jyoti Yojana

856. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa Government propose to release 1.32 lakh families free power connection under the Kutir Jyoti Yojana, as reported in the Asian Age, dated the 9th January, 2003;

(b) if so, the financial help that has been or would be provided by the Centre to the State for the purpose; and

(c) whether any other Plan is on the anvil under the rural electrification schemes in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Government of Orissa has proposed to release 66666 single point light connections under Kutir Jyoti Programme to the rural families living below poverty line, during 2002-03.

(b) Government of India, through Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), has allocated a grant of Rs. 10 crores under Kutir Jyoti Programme during 2002-03 to Orissa. Against this sanctioned grant, 50 per cent of this shall be released on acceptance of the Kutir Jyoti Scheme by the State/State Power Utility and balance 50 per cent grant on release of connections, on furnishing list of beneficiaries by the State Governments/ State Power Utilities.